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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

August 1999

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ON FLAG:
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PAGE 6



Legion Members At FBI Academy

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Tom Brokaw, Boys State

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 147, No. 2

AUGUST 1999

ARTICLES

- FBI: FIDELITY, BRAVERY, INTEGRITY** By Terry Coffey
Legionnaires train future agents at the FBI Academy.

10

- FULL-TIME WARRIOR** By Rowan Scarborough
America's Guard and Reserve stretched too thin.

14

- DEFINING THE THREAT** By Fred Peck
What forces could ambush the United States?

18

- AMERICA'S 30-YEARS WAR** By Balint Vazsonyi
Counterculture degrades historic values.

22

- WAR WITHOUT A PLAN** By Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.
America needs better foreign-policy planning.

26

- TOM BROKAW** Interview
NBC's anchor talks about the World War II generation.

32

DEPARTMENTS

- BIG ISSUES** Should Partial-Birth Abortions Be Banned?

36

- VETVOICE** 4 **WASHINGTON WATCH** 34

42

- FLAG NEWS** 6 **VETERANS UPDATE** 38

48

- COMMANDER'S MESSAGE** 8 **LEGION NEWS** 40

- COVER** FBI Academy students practice on the firing range in Quantico, Va., under the watchful eyes of a Legionnaire instructor. Rob Crandall photo

18

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

32



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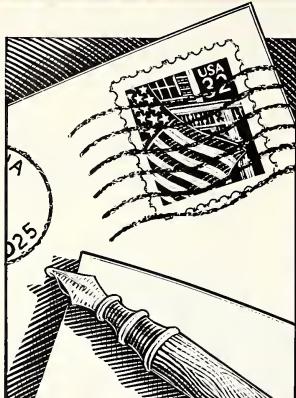
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WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Letter writers are also encouraged to submit photographs of themselves for possible publication with their letters. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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Editor's Note: There have been several complaints from readers regarding the address *The American Legion Magazine* published for the Cold War certificate Website in June (On Duty). The address we used is correct. To access the Cold War certificates Web site, do not use "www." The site can be accessed at <http://coldwar.army.mil>. When using either the Web site or e-mail address, make sure there are no spaces in the address line.

Internet users should have no problem contacting the site unless it's down for maintenance, or it's exceptionally busy. The site is maintained by the U.S. Army's Software Development Center.

That's Hollywood

DALE DYE was not in World War II, but he should know soldiers never



can in the latter half of this century. I've had the opportunity to live one of the most affluent and happy lives in the history of civilization. I have America's veterans to thank for that. A day doesn't go by that I don't think of the sacrifices made by so many heroes and how those sacrifices gave me my freedom and my fantastic life.

— Gene Greenwood, Milpitas, Calif.

Concerned Caregiver

I AM a Vietnam veteran, registered nurse and employee of the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System, Highland Drive Division. The flatline budget has drastically affected the ability of VA to provide quality health care. The department is quickly being dismantled, and the future is bleak.

There are bills being introduced in the House that authorize the secretary of the VA to contract out the services many dedicated employees now provide — including nursing care.

Now, as never before, there needs to be a cooperative effort among the veterans service organizations, veterans themselves and the employees who provide hospital services. Secretary Togo West says he can do more with less. As an employee, I can tell you we are at the point of splitting at the seams. Staff morale is low, overtime costs are at an all-time high and the bottom line rules over quality patient care.

I hope The American Legion will help turn the tide before it's too late.

— Mary Ann Meader, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Congress Should Decide

THANKS for your forthright stand against the operations in Yugoslavia. This travesty has touched a chord of objection across the political spectrum like none I can remember.

The one instrument that has allowed the president to place us in such circumstances is the well-intended but flawed War Powers Resolution. No one man should be able to pull the trigger unchecked.

I urge you to marshal the Legion's considerable resources to demand that Congress abolish the resolution and write new legislation clarifying Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. The president must never have the ability to place our forces in harm's way and fire the first offensive round. This grave order must come from Congress.

— Michael Moses, Orlando, Fla.

Wonderful Life

I WAS BORN in 1945. As an Ameri-

Mistaken Identification

SINCE the June edition was released, I have received a number of calls from Tennessee Legionnaires who point out that the picture on page 12 — with Vice President Al Gore — has some misidentified people.

The individual shaking hands with Gore is actually the East Tennessee Vice Commander, William H. Conant and not the Department Commander Perry D. Roberts.

— A. Mike Hammer
Tennessee Dept. Adjutant

Editor's Note: We apologize to the Department of Tennessee. We regret the error.

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FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT ROLLS THROUGH HOUSE

THE CONSTITUTIONAL amendment to protect the American Flag from desecration overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives 305-124 June 24, 15 votes above the two-thirds needed for passage. Republicans voted 210-10 for the measure, Democrats 113-95 against it, and the one Independent member voted against the bill.

There is renewed confidence among amendment supporters that the bill will get through the more difficult Senate, where a similar version was turned down or not voted upon in recent years after passage by the House.

"We've had a change in the Senate. This bill could go forward," noted Duke Cunningham, R-Calif., once a Vietnam fighter pilot.

Senate Backers. The bill's Senate companion, S.J. Res. 14, has 58 co-sponsors, and most observers believe it is within a vote or two of the necessary two-thirds majority to pass.

Members of the Legion family and other amendment supporters are urged to write editorials, call in to talk radio shows and contact members of Congress on behalf of the resolution.

"In America, states have laws that make it illegal to kiss in public, against singing and yodeling in public, that make it illegal to ride skateboards or burn trash or leaves," said Rep. James Traficant, D-Ohio. "But, you can burn the flag."

Direct and emotional, Traficant continued, "In some states it is illegal to take the labels off pillows. It's illegal to touch or destroy a mailbox. But, it is legal to rip the stars and stripes off the flag." Then he added enthusiastically, "Beam me up!"

Traficant and 304 of his colleagues beamed up with the easy passage of this bill. Debate was lively on the House floor where opponents insisted that this is not a patriotic issue. Passion and philosophy defined opinion not tied to revenues, budgets or pork barreling, bringing out a wide assortment of anecdotes, humor and heartfelt, personal reflection.

"Protecting the flag is the least we



Flag burners were prevented from torching Old Glory by Chicago Cubs outfielder Rick Monday in this classic 1976 photograph.

can do for men who have risked their lives for America," declared Rep. Joe Moakley, D-Mass.

"Desecrating the flag strikes a devastating blow to our national unity. This outrageously offends most Americans," fired Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla. "We can all come together as Americans under our flag. This is not something easily explained, but easily understood."

Rep. Mark Green, R-Wis., added, "I'm the first native-born American in my family. My parents came here because of the freedom and opportunity the country offered."

But I never fully appreciated the flag as a symbol until I left to work overseas. Every time my wife and I saw Old Glory, our spirits lifted. But it wasn't just for us, it was also for the rest of the world. If we fail to protect the flag, our status will fall around the world, where we will be thought of as complacent and self-doubting."

Alternate Prefix Fails. An alternate "prefix" to existing resolution H.J. Res. 33, termed by Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., as "a circle to nowhere," got flattened by the House, 310-115.

House opponents to H.J. Res. 14

are not convinced the flag needs constitutional protection and claim that it would erode the Bill of Rights.

"Forty-nine states and forty-nine state legislatures have asked us to pass this amendment," noted Cunningham. "By one vote, in 1990, the Supreme Court overruled 200 years of American tradition. Eighty-five percent of the American population say that was wrong. Ninety percent of Supreme Court judges through history support the amendment."

Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., advised, "Let's not cave in to intellectual snobbery. Let's not all be acting too smart to be patriotic. Inexcusable conduct (burning the flag) must not be allowed."

People Are Heard. "Clearly, the House hears the voice of the people," noted Butch Miller, National Commander of The American Legion. "But restoring protection of Old Glory remains a tough sell in the Senate. The Senate will vote for the amendment with a little more prodding from their constituents. Those Senators who are holding out must realize that our resolve will outlast their stubbornness. I guarantee it."

—Peter Rose

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What Does 'Victory' Bring in Kosovo?

THE WAR in Kosovo is over. Or is it? We're now sending in ground troops. We've been told this could be more dangerous than the war itself – that our peacekeepers could suffer casualties not incurred during the aerial bombing. Our troops are mired in another mess instead of having the time to train for their real job – protecting the United States.

We are getting more involved in Yugoslavia than ever. Many pundits have said our peacekeeping operations in Kosovo will be an open-ended operation that could last years – even decades. We were promised we would be out of Bosnia three years ago. Instead, we've added another Yugoslav province to our baby-sitting list.

So just what did we win when we won the war in Kosovo? We won the right to be a permanent street cop in that province to keep the Serbs and ethnic Albanians from continuing their barroom brawl. Not only that, we get to rebuild the bar.

What do all of our efforts in Yugoslavia have to do with national defense? Very little. It's a serious distraction that could take our attention away from Saddam Hussein, from the Chinese, from the North Koreans and from any number of overt and covert threats to our national security. One thing we can be sure of is that Saddam Hussein is not suspending his effort to build weapons of mass destruction as we while away the time in Yugoslavia. A few months ago, Iraq was the major international news story as our weapons inspectors were prevented by the Iraqis from doing their jobs. That situation is still critical, but unfortunately, all of our attention focused on our welfare mission in Europe.

Certainly, the Chinese are wasting no time in capitalizing on the nuclear technology they have stolen from us. Do we hear any words of concern from the president about that?

Our 911 goodwill missions are draining the precious resources we have to defend our own country. While our

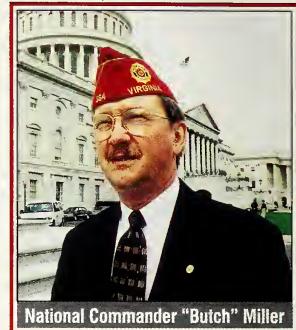
intentions to reduce the misery of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo were undeniably good, we should call our mission what it is – a goodwill venture – and then see that the effort is properly funded rather than embezzling from precious national defense resources.

If the administration is serious about being the world's nanny, it ought to make sure our Defense Department is funded and manned for that task as well as its main job. We've been told that DOD is out of cruise missiles. Yet the administration's original 2000 budget had no money planned for cruise missiles. Constant deployments are driving people from the military so they can spend more time with their families. Recruiting is down. Standards are being lowered to allow less-talented recruits into the military.

Our military strength, our military planning, our personnel, our technological superiority – all are falling victim to what one senator has termed the administration's "photo-op foreign policy."

Before the so-called peace dividend goes completely down the rat hole, it's time for our president to tell us what our strategic plan is for the defense of this country against threats such as the new Chinese missile technology we gave away, the ability of terrorists to carry nuclear weapons in a suitcase, biological weapons that can wipe out cities, and North Korean nuclear weapons development. Because we have totally neglected the option to build a missile defense system for the United States, any rogue country can lob a nuclear missile at us.

If we won the war in Kosovo, why don't we feel any more secure? Why aren't we celebrating in the streets like we did after World War II and the Gulf War? Could it be because we didn't really win anything more than just a cease-fire? We've had ceasefires before – in Korea, in Vietnam and in Bosnia. A cease-fire cannot properly be called a victory. The aggressor is still in place. He just moved down the block. He wasn't defeated.



National Commander "Butch" Miller

As we keep bleeding our military strength in places like Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo, it's time for President Clinton to tell us exactly what he feels the mission of the U.S. fighting force is. There have to be guidelines for its use. We cannot have it chasing every brush fire in the world like a dog chasing its tail.

National defense is a serious and dangerous business. The administration is leaving us unnecessarily exposed. It's time to stop being irresponsible and start protecting the interests of the United States.

While we're creating new war veterans in Yugoslavia, the administration and Congress are pulling the rug out from under VA and its ability to provide medical and other support to those veterans in their later years.

We have to buy the defense equipment; we have to plan for threats; we have to improve the military's ability to recruit by paying our troops better; and we have to show that we will care for our brave veterans when they can no longer fight.

That's the way we will guarantee the security of this nation. Humanitarian missions should be funded for what they are, and the president should not have the power to use national defense funds for anything other than national defense.



FBI: Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity

Photos By Rob Crandall

Legionnaires mold the next generation of FBI agents.

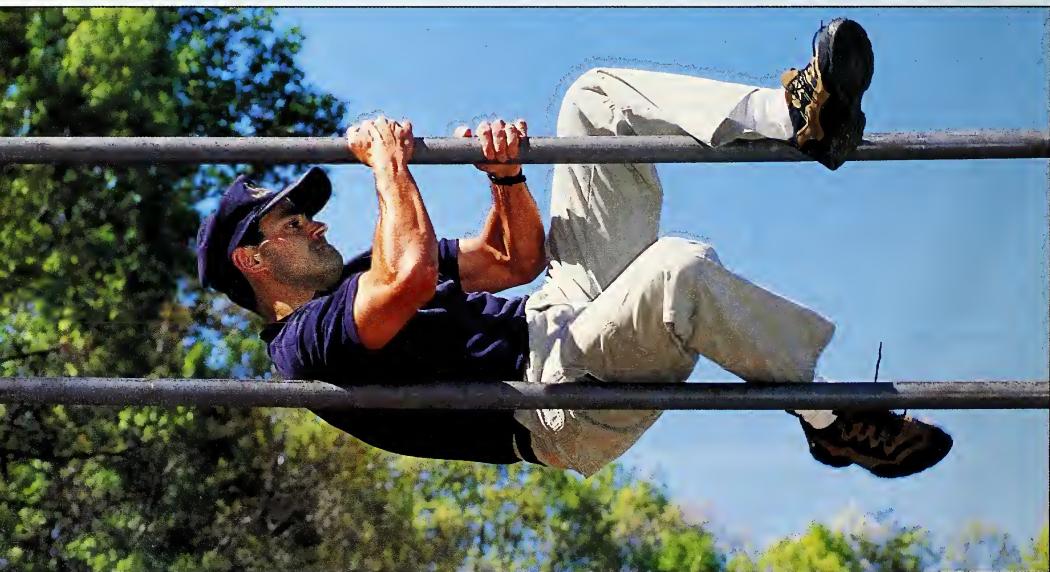
By Terry Coffey
Assistant Editor

LEGIONNAIRE Jerry Bessette is working hard, although it's hard to tell as he springs over log obstacles at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., without breaking a sweat. Only once does he even grimace — as he leaps up and grabs an iron bar suspended nine feet above the ground. He pulls himself over the bar, and lands on the other side with a thud and a slight groan.

"We (use) the obstacles to (cause) a little controlled stress," says Bes-

sette, an Academy physical training unit instructor for two years and member of J. Edgar Hoover Post 56.

Students like Legionnaires Keith and Scott (the Academy forbids the use of last names) first struggle through the rugged obstacle course, which includes walls and log hurdles. They work in pairs — one always alert, weapon at the ready. By the time they struggle over the final obstacle — a 15-foot-high chain link fence — and drop to the ground on the other side, many are gasping for breath, barely able to shout "Stop! FBI!" They then have to pursue two suspects for a quarter-mile. Closing in on the "perps," students appear exhausted — just like the real world.



Legionnaire and physical training instructor Jerry Bessette pulls himself over a set of iron bars on the obstacle course.



Future FBI agents, armed with 12-gauge shotguns, advance to the firing line.



Academy students get an idea of what it feels like to be in a fight.

Struggle to Survive. After a few hours of overcoming obstacles, making "arrests" and learning defensive tactics, students learn what it's like to be in a real fight. "Many people have never been struck in the head, or even been in a fight," says Tom Lyons, the head of the Academy's physical training unit and commander of Legion Post 56. At first, students like Pete, a Legionnaire and former Indiana State Trooper, trade jabs and grunts with gusto. They soon slow down, however. Then they hit the mats for wrestling — groaning as they grapple and roll around, trying to gain an advantage. They switch back and forth between boxing and wrestling until punches look more like handshakes and there's more resting than wrestling. "That's a valuable lesson for them to learn," says Lyons as the students drag their tired, sweaty bodies to the showers. "They know they have to be in shape if they're going to survive."

"This is reality training," gasps Pete, a muscular, 32-year-old military vet in week 10 of the 15-week course. "When I was a state trooper, with my size, I never really got into a knock-down, drag-out, so it's good training. You'll know how to handle yourself when you get into a situation."

Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity. Lyons is an Air Force veteran and former Miami police officer who joined the FBI in 1980. He says it takes a special mix of intelligence, inquisitiveness and life experience to make a good agent.

"Our motto is, 'Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity,'" Lyons



Academy students work together to conquer obstacles and "get their suspect."

says. "Each agent must have fidelity to the Constitution and the country; bravery to defend those things and the citizens; and the integrity to distinguish right from wrong, and act accordingly."

That last part — distinguishing right from wrong, and acting accordingly —

has been criticized since controversial FBI actions in Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Lyons says those incidents have not changed Academy training, because such events are not day-to-day situations. Specialists like SWAT teams and negotiators are brought in for such situations, under the coordination of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group — a specially trained group of veteran agents. Lyons does feel criticism can be put to good use. "We look for a constructive lesson to take from it." It can, however, be hurtful, especially when it isn't true. "We tell our students to look around them, and see the motivation, and the type of people they're working with, because that's the plus side of our organization."

Ready, Aim, Fire. It's a beautiful day on the FBI Academy firing range — sunny and warm. Just the type of day that brings a trickle of sweat from beneath a shooter's goggles, which mixes with gunsmoke to sting the eyes. Such distractions cannot be allowed to affect a student's concentration.

Legionnaire Andy Powers prowls the firing line, helping weak shooters and enforcing safety. "In the military, they figure about 80 percent of all rounds expended are wasted, are misses. You can't afford that in a civilian

"The Legion gives another layer to what we're all about."

*Post 56 Commander
Tom Lyons*

population." Innocent bystanders might be hurt.

Before graduation, students must qualify with a 12-gauge shotgun, a .40-caliber handgun and the MP-5, a sub-machinegun.

A New Breed. Some 70,000 applicants would like to be agents. Of those, only 700 will be hired this year. And while the FBI continues to attract



Students must be able to do at least two pull-ups, 46 sit-ups, 25 push-ups, a shuttle run in 26 seconds and a two-mile run in at least 16:30.

G-Men in the Legion

FBI AMERICAN LEGION Post 56 was chartered in April 1946. Within a week, Post Commander Charles Bell received a telegram from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover: "I am a firm believer in the principles for which the group stands and welcome it into our midst."

In fact, the FBI has been very supportive of the Post, according to Cartha "Deke" DeLoach, a Past Post 56 Commander and former chairman of the Legion's Public Relations Commission. "Hoover was the strongest supporter," says DeLoach, who served as the legendary G-Man's assistant director. "He never turned me down for any work with the Legion."

Over the years, Post 56 has been involved in many community efforts. In 1947, the Post started a Boy Scout

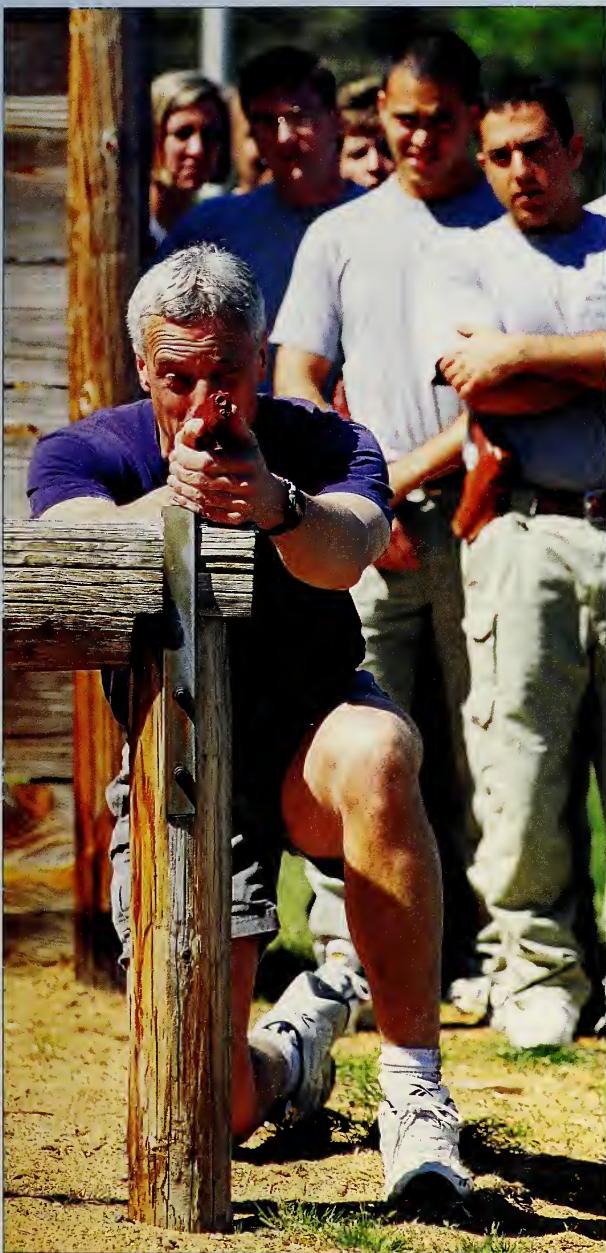
troop for juvenile delinquents at the National Training School for Boys. Until 1990, the Post led security for the D.C. Soap Box Derby.

In 1950, the Post and the FBI began honoring FBI employees killed in the line of duty.

Each Memorial Day, the Post conducts a service in the courtyard of the J. Edgar Hoover Building. FBI Director Louis Freeh took part this year.

The Post was renamed the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial FBI Legion Post in 1972. The past two years, Post 56 has supported a track and field team associated with the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs.

Post 56 currently boasts more than 340 members, scattered throughout the world. Only FBI employees can join the Post.



FBI Instructor Kevin Crawford works through the obstacle course, while keeping suspects covered.



Tom Lyons (right), the supervisor of the Academy's physical training unit, watches as students complete their first physical fitness tests. The Post 56 Commander regularly recruits Legion-eligible instructors and students into the J. Edgar Hoover Post.

the best and brightest, instructors have noticed some changes.

"Loyalty is much harder to earn now," says Legionnaire Jeff Lindsey, physical unit instructor. "There is also more of a tendency to ask questions." And they're smarter. Which means instructors have to take a more hands-on approach to training, whether it's presenting ethical dilemmas, teaching law or taking a tumultuous spin on the defensive driving course.

In the end, though, it all boils down to saving lives: "Our primary focus is to give them the skills and techniques necessary to defend themselves," Lindsey says, "to allow them to successfully conclude an arrest (and) keep someone from getting hurt — themselves, their partners or innocent bystanders."

Still Serving God and Country. The J. Edgar Hoover Post has been around since 1946. More than 340 FBI agents are Post members — but most are scattered throughout the world.

Each Memorial Day, the Post places a wreath in honor of fallen agents in the courtyard of the J. Edgar Hoover Building. The Post is also involved in several Department of Washington, D.C., programs, especially the oratorical contest.

"The Legion gives another layer to what we're all about," says Post Commander Tom Lyons. "It's another touchstone for all of us, another shared experience." □

Article Design: Simon Smith

~~Full~~ Part-Time Warriors

National Guardsmen and reservists face increasing operations tempos while trying to balance their civilian and military careers. BY ROWAN SCARBOROUGH

WHEN RON De La Rosa decided to be part of history and join his Army National Guard unit in Bosnia, he had to first check with the boss. In this case, the boss was understanding — Ron De La Rosa is the boss. He runs a one-lawyer law practice in Austin, Texas.

"I could have decided against going to Bosnia, kept the practice and still stayed in the Guard," says the 41-year-old staff sergeant, who is married and has one daughter, 23. "They were looking for volunteers and anytime they're looking for volunteers I always stick my name in there. I just feel that's part of my duty."

De La Rosa is just one of thousands of Guard and Reserve members who have had to adjust their private sector jobs to meet the armed forces' increasing reliance on backup troops in the 1990s.

Ten years ago, before the Soviet Union disappeared as America's pre-eminent threat, the Guard and reserves performed about 1 million man-days of service a year. Today, they are called up at 13 times that rate — the equivalent of adding 35,000 full-time troops to the 1.4 million active force.

Leaning On Reservists. Whether the mission is peacekeeping in Haiti or Bosnia, or bombing Iraq and Yugoslavia, the Pentagon has tapped its rich and diverse reserves to round out active units. Nearly a quarter-million reservists were called up or volunteered during the Persian Gulf war.

"Many of the competencies that are

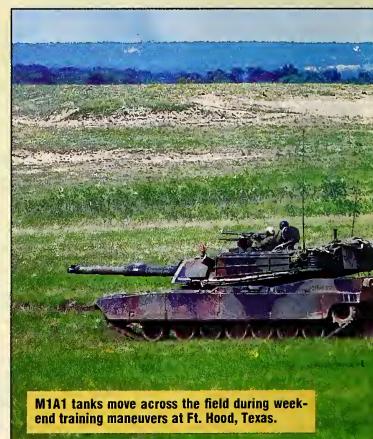


During a break in weekend training maneuvers at Ft. Hood, Texas, Lt. Col. James Brown (center) discusses strategy with Sgt. First Class Joseph Bush (left) and Capt. Michael Houston.

required are almost exclusively embedded in the Guard and Reserve," says Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "I guess the point I'm trying to make is anywhere you look today in the military you're going to find the Guard and Reserve."

Cragin says he realizes the frequent call-ups strain employer-worker relations. With no available studies to show if retention or recruiting is being affected, the assistant secretary earlier this year ordered a first-ever attitude study to find the answer.

Cragin, who himself spent 30 years on active duty and in the reserves as a Navy officer, also conducts his own informal surveys. He travels each weekend to places such as Alaska, Central America





USAF Photo by Alvaro J. Chico/Dam/DOD

Maj. Phil Tau of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing goes through pre-flight checks before flying his F-16 Fighting Falcon on a combat patrol mission in the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq.



Active-duty service members and reservists deployed in Guatemala meet with Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.



and even Norway — wherever Guardsmen or reservists are on duty — to gather facts.

"I always inquire about employer relations and we know we have to do a more effective job of explaining to employers that there has, in fact, been a profound paradigm shift in the composition of our forces and the Reserve today really isn't a reserve in the sense of the Cold War days. This is a force that is integral and utilized on a regular basis."

In De La Rosa's case, he improvised to keep his law practice open. He is one of about 1,000 members of the Guard's 49th Armored Division that will ship to Bosnia in February and become the first Guard unit in history to command elements of an active Army division, in this case the 3rd Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo. They will be there up to nine months.

De La Rosa says his small staff will take care of drawing up legal papers and court filings. When a client needs a lawyer in court, the staff sergeant's friends will pinch hit.

"Hopefully the staff will be able to keep me going in terms of paperwork," he says. "If there is a need for an attorney, say there is a hearing set for one of our clients, we have some attorneys that can take care of that."

"We have a daughter and she's already 23, so it's not like my wife and I have any children at the house to worry about," he adds. "The practice, I had to think about it for me to be gone for nine months. That is a long time to leave my practice. After I thought about it, I talked to these friends of mine and they said they would help out. That's what caused me to make that decision."

Finding A Way. James Brown, a battalion commander in the 49th, faced a similar challenge. He co-owns a 25-employee company in Tyler, Texas, that designs, installs and services water systems. He was in the process this summer of negotiating a new strategy so he won't leave his partner high and dry while he is in the Balkans.

"We're working on it as we speak," he says. "We are studying how we can do all the functions and do all the business."

"I've been doing this for 19 years,"

Rowan Scarborough has been Pentagon correspondent for *The Washington Times* the past 10 years. He reported for *Defense Week* in the 1980s and served in the United States Navy from 1968 to 1972.

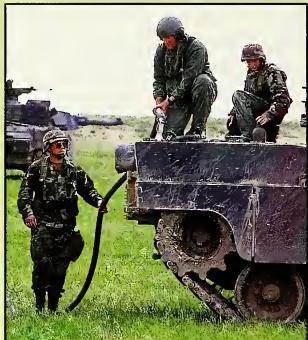
Article design: Caron Morales

HEEDING THE CALL

Reservists activated over the past decade:

PANAMA 1989-90	GULF WAR 1990-91	SOMALIA 1993	HAITI 1994-96	BOSNIA 1995-99	SW ASIA 1998-99	ALLIED FORCE 1999
7,323	265,322	343	8,338	31,000	1,000	6,000

(all voluntary)



Members of the Texas National Guard 49th Armored Division refuel during training at Ft. Hood, Texas.

says Brown, a lieutenant colonel and 39-year-old father of two children. "I guess I felt like it was my duty too ... They needed the people."

He says he knows of little, if any, friction between employers and 49th Division personnel. "In Texas especially, there's a strong sense of patriotism and employers are sympathetic to all the things the Guard and the Reserve do," Brown says. The Guard and Reserve are doing more with less just like the active force. The Cold War's end has allowed both Presidents Bush and Clinton to send the military around the globe on various incursions, and peacekeeping and disaster relief missions.

Dwindling Numbers. Yet, while the Pentagon is dialing 911 more often, Guard and Reserve strength has nose-dived, from 1.8 million in 1989 to 876,000 today, matching cuts in overall defense spending.

Pentagon officials are unable to say whether the increase in "op tempo" is directly hurting recruiting. An Army Reserve force of 208,000 missed its inductee goal by 10 percent last year. But the Air and Army National Guard say they are meeting their targets.

"It's a community-based culture," says Daniel Donohue, spokesman for the National Guard Bureau. "When you get out in middle America, passes from father to son for generations. It's just something you do."

Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., is in a good position to assess the situation. He is chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on personnel, co-leads the House Guard and Reserve Caucus and is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. "When you shrink the force and increase the op tempo, you stress their lives," Buyer says. "You're asking a lot of employers to carry the weight."

The congressman is concerned that more frequent call-ups will eventually hurt "weekend warrior" retention. "I was in an American Legion Post in Indiana when a 13-year Air Force reservist told me 'I left the Reserve. I left not because I wanted to, but because I had to and that hurt,'" Buyer says. "He could not sustain the pace, all the constant demands of the Air Force Reserve, and maintain his family."

Buyer says he may introduce legislation giving tax breaks to employers who temporarily lose workers to active duty. "We're trying to grapple with things to give inducements to employers out there who are bending over backwards when they have citizen soldiers. A lot of these soldiers are being cooperative through their patriotism. But at some point, something will break."

While Buyer mulls tax breaks, the Pentagon has moved in recent years to

make sure employers know their responsibilities, both as patriotic Americans and as law abiders. "Citizen soldiers" cannot be fired for answering the call.

Cragin says the Defense Department has won pledges from more than 400 local Chambers of Commerce to encourage businesses to support the Guard and Reserve. The Clinton administration has also started the Model Federal Employer Initiative. It ensures the federal government, which employs 100,000 guardsmen and reservists, gives deference when they are activated.

Already in place for 25 years is the National Employers in Support of the Guard and Reserve. The committee works as a liaison between the military and employers, and has an ombudsman to mediate any disputes. Locally, there is a NESG board in each state.

Cragin says the outreach must get better. With the all-volunteer force a quarter-century old, only 6 percent of people under age 65 have ever served in the military.

"When you get into a second generation of Americans who have never had any conscription, you really have a very small pool," he says. "So we have to work harder in the community with our employers to explain what our Guard and Reserve have to do." □



U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Lisa Woodbury gives a child a stuffed animal at a shelter in Bosnia in 1997.

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DEFINING THE

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SOVIET UNION
ELIMINATED
“THE THREAT,”
YET UNLEASHED
NEW DANGERS
WHICH NOW
FESTER IN
A MORE
UNSTABLE
WORLD.**

By Fred Peck

PITY THE POOR Pentagon planners. In what some may now look upon as the “good old days of the Cold War,” U.S. military planners were able to focus their efforts on the threat to our national security posed by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. Our strategists formulated a defense policy aimed at deterring or defeating a Warsaw Pact offensive. Popular wisdom held, if we could do that, we could easily handle any lesser threats to our vital interests.

By the 1970s, the U.S. military lexicon no longer even referred to the Warsaw Pact by name. “The Threat” had become its own proper noun, understood to be the communist bloc and its allies. Our forces were robust, our investment in defense immense and our strong research and development efforts kept us out in front of our potential adversaries.

This policy was successful as the Berlin Wall fell, the Warsaw Pact crumbled and the Soviet Union ceased to exist. In the dust of their demise, however, we found that the world was not a safer place. Indeed, many have argued the opposite is true. There is greater instability in the world now than The Threat no longer looms so large. The old world order imposed a certain dis-



South Korean patrols have become more common along the demilitarized zone in response to North Korea's increased troop movements.

A. Young-Joon/Newsweek

THE THREAT



The Chinese People's Liberation Army flexed its military muscle soon after the Hong Kong handover, sending a message that it will be a force of the future.

pline that is absent in the post-Cold War era.

Looking Glass Lost. Threats to our national security, once seen so clearly through the prism of the Cold War, became much more nebulous. America, now the world's only superpower, found itself compelled to flex its military muscle around the globe.

The Balkans, Somalia, Haiti and the Persian Gulf were scenes where U.S. presidents decided to use force to protect our interests. Iraq, which only a decade ago was seen as a friendly counterweight to Iranian aggression, suddenly became the target of the largest U.S. military operation since Vietnam. Humanitarian and peace-keeping missions became the soup du jour for our military forces.

The dilemma for military planners: from where will future threats to America come, and in what form?

We are susceptible to isolated terrorist actions such as the botched attack on the World Trade Center in New York in 1993. However, the most serious act of domestic terrorism was the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which was carried out by a disgruntled former U.S. serviceman with sacks of fertilizer, racing fuel and a rented truck. Attacks of this magnitude are great tragedies, but not threats to our existence.

More pervasive threats are capable of

being made on our vital national interests. It was to protect such a vital national interest, the petroleum resources of the Arabian Peninsula, that we fought the Gulf War in 1991. Now the United States and our NATO allies are in Yugoslavia with an undefined mission.

NATO's intervention in Kosovo would have been unthinkable during the Cold War. The United States and its NATO allies stood by helplessly as the Soviet Union brutally crushed a budding liberation movement in Czechoslovakia, a country closer to the heart of Europe and with much stronger ties to Western Europe than Serbia or its Kosovo province. We looked passively as a much bloodier repression was carried out by Pol Pot in Cambodia. Western Bloc versus Soviet Bloc tensions prevented us from taking action in those and many other areas. Conversely, iron-fisted communist rule by Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia kept nationalist aspirations of the Serbs, Croats and Albanians dormant throughout the Cold War.

Kosovo also illustrates the limits of our military superpower status. In his

address to the nation, President Clinton said, "In the Balkans, inaction in the face of brutality simply invites more brutality." Yet he was unable to summon the will of either NATO or the American people to initially commit the ground forces. We are the world's only superpower, but we remain a reluctant one. We are willing to use limited force such as air strikes or peace-keeping troops, but we are very hesitant to spend the lives of our young men and women in uniform, as well we should, unless there is a clearly defined threat to our national interests.

So, what specific threats should concern us?

Recalling our experience with Iraq, we must protect our interests in the Persian Gulf region. A change in philosophy, ideology or leadership could, overnight, pose a direct threat to the oil which is so vital to our economy. Our diplomats are reluctant to discuss it openly, but many of the countries in the region are unstable and have recently or soon will undergo crises in succession of their leadership.

During the Gulf War we were blessed with a dumb enemy. Had the Iraqis continued south across the Saudi Arabian border after rolling over Kuwait, they could have overwhelmed the Saudis and occupied their oil fields. They could have easily captured the airfields and port facilities we used as staging bases for our eventual air and ground campaigns in Kuwait and Iraq. In 1990, the Iraqis had the ability to quickly conquer Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — had they made the decision to do so.

That would have greatly complicated the situation for us; without those turnkey facilities, we would have had to fight our way ashore and up the Arabian Peninsula. Saddam Hussein could have done much more damage to the world's oil production capability, and hence the world's economy, if he had done to the Saudi oil fields what he did to those in Kuwait.

Implausible? Not at all. That is why the Arab states in the region are reluctant

"The dilemma for military planners: from where will future threats to America come, and in what form?"



Turkish troops curb an invasion into northern Iraq by rebel Kurds. The "Kurdish problem" is a concern for the U.S.

to support any further destabilization of Saddam's regime. They prefer dealing with "the devil they know" rather than bet on what might emerge in Iraq in the wake of his rule.

There is a sizable Kurdish minority in northern Iraq, northwestern Iran and eastern Turkey which holds a serious potential for instability in the region. Although of late the Iranians have been seeking some rapprochement with the United States, Iran is gradually rebuilding its military and continues to support international terrorism.

The United States is a superpower because it can project its military power far from its shores. Recapturing the Arabian Peninsula would be difficult and time consuming. But we, and only we, have that capability. Our power comes from our unmatched sealift and airlift resources. We also have a forcible entry capability through airborne and amphibious operations that no other nation can come close to matching. We have the air power, both land and carrier-based, that can rapidly gain and maintain air superiority in any corner of the world. Add the formidable firepower of our surface and sub-surface warships, and you have the formula which makes us the world's only superpower.

Dealing with the last great empire in the world, the People's Republic of Chi-

na, is a vexing problem in that it appears we are our own worst enemy. By transfer, intellectual piracy or flat-out espionage, we have handed the Chinese an immense amount of nuclear and missile technology. Although China has a large military, it lacks any appreciable power projection capability: It has little airlift or sealift ability and is a threat only to places to which the Chinese can march. China has the resources to conduct a cross channel attack on Taiwan, but the U.S. Navy could check such a move.

However, CIA Director George J. Tenet testified in February before the Senate Armed Services Committee that, "China is also developing and acquiring air and naval systems intended to deter the United States from involvement in a Taiwan Strait crisis and to extend China's fighting capability beyond its coastline. Although China does not want a conflict over Taiwan, it refuses to renounce the use of force as an option and continues to place its best new military equipment opposite the island."

Some argue that the Chinese Empire will one day go the way of the Soviet Empire, although I think it will be later rather than sooner. The breakup of the Chinese Empire is nothing to be sanguine about. Such an unstable situation could easily spin out of control and the aftershocks would be felt over a wide area for a long time.

Fighting For Food. In North Korea, the regime of dictator Kim Chong-il often seems ready to collapse under its own weight. The North Koreans cannot even feed their people and something must give. Re-unification of Korea may come sooner than expected, but at great cost. The possibility also exists for a

violent disintegration across its border into South Korea.

Indeed, Lt. Gen. Patrick M. Hughes, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, testified before the Senate Select Committee in January 1998: "Some form of significant – perhaps violent – change is likely in the next five years."

Many defense strategists cite the hostility between Greece and Turkey, two NATO partners, as a potential flashpoint. It is, but of even greater concern are events within Turkey. The growing pressure from Islamic fundamentalists on what is now a secular state, and the unresolved Kurdish problem in eastern Turkey are both causes for concern. This is a trouble spot where we have treaty obligations, military bases and important national interests.

As defense analysts survey the world, they note other countries and regions that also give cause for concern. Most notably is the instability in Central Asia among some Republics of the former Soviet Union, the continual friction between the two nuclear-capable powers of Pakistan and India, and sub-Saharan Africa where many ethnic tribal conflicts continue to be a problem. These areas pose no direct threats to our vital national interests, but as we have seen in Somalia and Rwanda, they carry the potential for humanitarian or peace-keeping intervention if our political leadership so directs. Terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies such as those in Kenya and Tanzania are the object of constant vigilance, but no significant threat to our vital interests exists in these regions.

Terrorism is one of a few remaining "isms" against which we must remain on guard now that communism and fascism have largely disappeared. Of equal or even greater danger to our interests may be militant Islamic fundamentalism in Turkey, Egypt and Algeria and that old bugaboo, nationalism.

There are many on-going separatist struggles that could heat up and spill over to pose problems for the United States, just as they have in the Balkans.

Cyber attacks, the illicit drug trade and illegal immigration are threats or dangers to our well being; but in my opinion are better dealt with by our intelligence community, other federal agencies or even the National Guard. There is a role for the Defense Department to play in these, but taking a leading role would detract from the military's true mission, which is to fight our battles and win our wars. □



Because of America's dependence on petroleum, the attack on Kuwait's oil fields posed a valid threat to United States national interests.

Fred Peck, a retired Marine colonel, served as a senior spokesman for Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. Article design: Caron Morales



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Have anti-war protesters changed the face of America? The changing role of the military from defenders of our nation to a politically correct service is an indicator that they have.

Wide World

America's 30 YEARS WAR

The 30-year slide toward socialism can be stopped if Americans return to our country's founding principles.

By Balint Vazsonyi



Balint Vazsonyi believes, to win the 30 years war, America needs to return to the principles penned by its founding fathers.

IN THESE waning months of the 20th century, much is being said about the astonishing advances symbolized by the automobile, the airplane, penicillin and the computer. Little has been said about a most remarkable advance in the affairs of man — the emergence of the United States military.

Armies and navies have existed throughout history either to defend or to conquer territory. Great powers became known as such because they used power either to impose their rule upon, or simply destroy, others.

Not so America, in this American of centuries.

The nation that could have chosen to rule the world has used its armed forces, instead, to restrain others who aspired to do so. Americans' large numbers have been prepared to die abroad with no expectation of territorial gain. Moreover, as soon as it was practicable, military rule over conquered territory was replaced with local civilian control. In the process, the seeds of a constitutional existence were planted in countries where the indigenous

population had proved incapable of establishing it on its own. Germany and Japan are the prime examples.

There has never been a force like the American military. And there has never been a country like America. For the past 30 years, however, all aspects of our lives, including our institutions, have been moving away from America's founding principles. Like a compass, these principles — rule of law, individual rights, guaranteed property and a common American identity — have provided bearing for two centuries.

As America moves in this direction, it heads closer to the sole realistic alternative. The alternative is one we call by pseudonyms because we are reluctant to confront its proper name — communism. This communism is not the same as Stalin's gulag or Mao's cultural revolution. Instead it is a logical end where the objective of socialism has been achieved.

I Pledge Allegiance. As an immigrant from communist Hungary, I believe there has never been a country like the United States. That realization must hit every immigrant who comes to this country. It certainly hit me 40 years ago when I arrived. It prompted me to embark on a long journey of discovery about the nature of this land, and how it transforms all who come to live here.

However, 30 years ago, America began to change. Some people began to change. As time went on, the changes became increasingly ominous. I spent most of my life as a touring concert pianist, merely thinking about political philosophy, not engaging in it. For many years, my thoughts and my ever greater fears about the changes ended up as conversations around dinner tables.

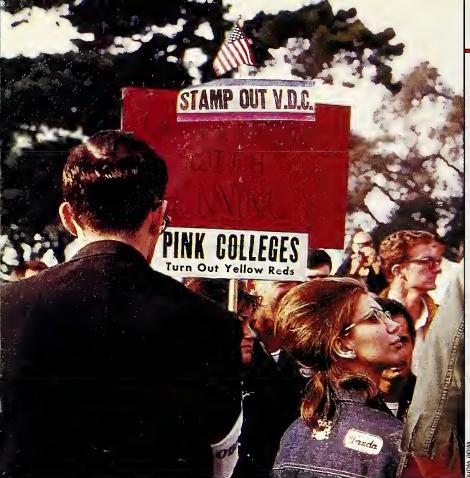
The developing dialogue, the opportunity of the 1994 elections for a return to core principles, and a growing sense during 1995 that the opportunity was being wasted, led to the establishment of the Center for the American Founding. By that time, I had realized that America's founding principles held the key to the freedom, the prosperity, the unparalleled success this nation has enjoyed. In an attempt to articulate the most indispensable of these principles, I was also guided by the inspired wisdom of the founding fathers. They understood that the fewer the laws, the broader the agreement. The same applies to principles.

Four principles, like the points of a compass, seemed to define America to the point where the absence of any would



Protesters for and against the Vietnam War are still at odds. The issue today, though, is which side will guide the future of America.

Wide World



Students asked "What's wrong with winning the Vietnam War?" America's founders would have agreed: "Absolutely nothing."

produce a different way of life – with alarming resemblance to that of failed societies.

The North Star of these principles is the rule of law. Not just any law, of course, but the Constitution. Laws inconsistent with the Constitution lead to lawlessness. Next, individual rights – the only ones affirmed by the framers. Group rights, as even Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., recognized in 1964, have no place in the United States because they are in conflict with the greatest aspiration of man: equality before the law.

Among individual rights, special importance attaches to the right to acquire, hold and freely dispose of property. The unbreakable bond that joins property and liberty has been known since the writing of the Magna Carta in 1215. That is why the infringement on liberty always begins with the denial of property rights. Last but not least is our common American identity – repository of our moral code, expressed in our common language, foundation of our work ethic as well as our fierce independence. George Washington thought the word "American" so important that he underlined it twice in his farewell address.

To better understand socialism, it will be helpful not to think of it in narrow terms. Socialism is simply continental Europe's answer to British and American concepts of liberty, morality, property and common law applied equally to all. While it has produced horrors in the extreme – Germany's Third Reich, the Soviet Union, Mao's China and others – at its foundations socialism is simply a theory that is the complete opposite of the politi-

cal philosophy upon which the United States was established. The theory, originating mostly from France and Germany, foresees the creation of the perfect society in which no one wants more than one's fair share, and no one suffers from unfulfilled needs. In other words, a society in which social justice has been achieved.

It further proposes that chosen humans who know how the perfect society ought to function have the right to impose their superior understanding on all others. The troubles begin when some of the others do not wish to be led into paradise. This is especially likely in English-speaking countries, where people have always recognized the limitations of man, and where the aspiration never was an imaginary perfect world, but the unrestricted chance for the individual to achieve the best possible through hard work.

But what is wrong with social justice? No one seems to know what social justice is beyond some vague notion that it would be nice to live in a world where everybody has everything. The term simply provides cover to take away and redistribute what other people have spent their life earning. I have been offering \$1,000 to anyone who can define social justice; no takers in sight.

As for the need to emphasize the French and German origins of the idea, it's important to realize that, as well as great art, literature and technology, these nations have consistently produced failing political institutions. It is even more important not to mistake the passing of the Soviet Union for the passing of socialism. And, significantly, socialists have always seen the English-speaking world as the ultimate obstacle frustrating their attempts to conquer the world. Just ask Lenin, Hitler or Stalin.

Today's Socialism. That is why it is a contradiction in terms to be American and socialist. It also explains why socialists loathe America's military in particular. Their current solution: to shift

"**Reaction to my book, 'America's 30 Years War' has confirmed my long-standing belief, namely that millions of Americans would welcome the opportunity to reconnect with America's basic ideals and detach themselves from the alien philosophy that has taken hold in the land."**

its role from national defense to a global humanitarian force.

Who are America's socialists? That's a difficult question, because socialists realized 30 years ago that the word had to go if the idea were to succeed. That was when they induced almost an entire generation to repudiate America's founding principles. It was when they replaced the rule of law with the search for social justice, individual rights with group rights, security of property with redistribution through entitlements and our common American identity with multiculturalism.

By now, millions of Americans promote the socialist agenda without having the slightest idea about it, or any intention to do so. Beginning in the late 1960s, they have been persuaded that caring about other humans, or animals, or air and water – age-old American traits – were really the domain of socialism, now renamed liberalism (or progressivism, environmentalism, feminism or simply compassion) because America's original principles, they claimed, had failed to deliver social justice.

Reaction to my book, "America's 30 Years War," has confirmed my long-standing belief that millions of Americans would welcome the opportunity to reconnect with America's basic ideals and detach themselves from the alien philosophy that has taken hold in the land. □

Balint Vazsonyi is the author of "America's 30 Years War: Who Is Winning?" and director of the Center for the American Founding. In an effort to restore the principles penned by America's founding fathers, Vazsonyi hopes to travel to each state capitol prior to the 2000 election and encourage Americans to sign a pledge to "Re-elect America." The bus tour will begin February 28, 2000, and conclude in Philadelphia July 4th. Information about the tour can be found at www.founding.org or by writing to the Center for the American Founding, 1401 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 100, McLean, VA 22101.

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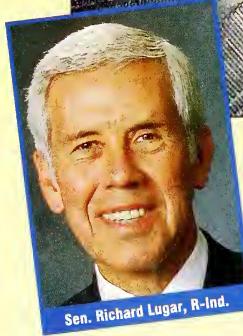
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USAF Photo by Senior Airman Greg L. Davis

The pilot of an Air Force B-52H bomber scans the horizon for aircraft during a mission over Kosovo.



Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

Courtesy Sen. Richard Lugar

***The United States
must pay closer
attention to foreign
policy and solve
overseas problems
before they
become crises.***

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., addressed the annual Armed Forces Day banquet in Indianapolis May 21. He discussed foreign policy as it relates to the Kosovo situation. Lugar wrote this commentary for The American Legion Magazine based on that speech.

THE POTENTIAL for conflict in Kosovo had been discussed by observers of the region for years. About 90 percent of the roughly two million people living in Kosovo were of Albanian ancestry. Only 10 percent were Serbian. But Serbia retained tight control over the province. Given the desire for a return to autonomy by the Albanian majority in Kosovo, the historic importance assigned to Kosovo by the

Serbs and the demonstrated willingness of the Milosevic regime to use ethnic conflict to build domestic political support, a conflict was almost inevitable without imaginative and early international intervention. However, there was insufficient attention to the powder keg in Kosovo until it reached the crisis stage.

In recent years, little attention was paid to foreign policy by the president, Congress or the American people until a crisis was upon us. For years the administration gave insufficient attention to the root cause of the problem in the Balkans — the lack of democracy in Yugoslavia and the presence of a regime with a history of aggression.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is the senior Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees. Article design: Caron Morales

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"Little attention was paid to foreign policy by the president, Congress or the American people until a crisis was upon us."

ethnic Albanians and the establishment of a Serbian Kosovo. His troops used terror to expel the majority of Albanian Kosovars, while destroying their houses, confiscating their bank accounts and seizing or invalidating their identification papers. They randomly massacred large groups of Kosovars and pledged to kill any Kosovo Liberation Army members that fell into their hands. A week into the fighting Milosevic had achieved his basic objectives.

Meanwhile, at least 850,000 Kosovars were housed in camps in Macedonia, Albania and other countries. The refugees represented not only a huge expense, but also a potential source of instability for the countries keeping them. The United States and NATO were left to deal with these problems through hasty improvisation.

Decisive Leadership Needed. Being a member of an alliance brings certain limitations in exchange for the benefits of additional resources, manpower and moral credibility. The dynamics of the NATO operation, for example, required the assent of all 19 members for specific military actions. With 19 countries publicly debating the bombing target-by-target, surprise was impossible.

But the United States must recognize that it is more than just another member of the alliance. We are the leader of NATO, and as such, we must exercise effective persuasion. During previous diplomatic efforts regarding Bosnia and during the Kosovo operation, the Clinton administration has been prone to use alliance disagreement to avoid hard decisions.

The United States, as the alliance's leader, must present a strong and coherent case backed by the weight of American diplomatic and military power. In most cases, alliance members welcome resolute leadership from the United States.

Greater Allied Contributions. When I addressed an assembly of NATO leaders in Washington April 23, I said, "Rough parity between the United States and European forces in the ability to project power and sustain these types of operations is a reasonable goal." Military strategists believe the conflicts of the 21st century will require NATO members to rapidly deploy forces over long distances and sustain these operations for extended periods of time. While Europeans remain an integral part of European defense, however, their likely contributions to fu-

Two refugee children watch as relief supplies are unloaded from a U.S. Navy helicopter at Camp Hope near Fier, Albania. The helicopter was hauling supplies from the USS Inchon in the Adriatic Sea.

The United States and NATO should have been working much earlier to support democratic forces in Serbia.

Involve Congress Sooner. As the war was about to start, members of Congress were hurried to a Capitol Hill briefing March 18 by Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen, Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Hugh Shelton and National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. Many senators who had not been following the situation closely were visibly shaken and alarmed that the United States was about to launch a war.

I asked Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., to ask the president to meet with the leadership of the House and Senate, and inform Congress of the administration's plans. The next day, the president and his advisors met with us in the living quarters of the White House. We met again the following Tuesday, March 22. By then the situation in Kosovo had deteriorated substantially and there was evidence that Serbian forces had crossed the border in large numbers. During that meeting we received word from Ambassador Holbrooke that Milosevic had rejected NATO demands, saying: "No! Never!"

We encouraged the president to ask Congress for authority and support for military action that appeared to be inevitable. He reluctantly sent a message asking for approval of a bombing campaign, and the Senate voted 58-41 to give him this authority. I voted for it.

A debate had occurred, but it was

hardly an adequate execution of Congress' responsibility to declare war. The House, on March 11, had debated and voted on an unrelated resolution authorizing U.S. troops to participate in a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Even most senators who voted for the resolution to approve bombing were unsatisfied with the timeliness of the information provided by the administration and the explanations of how the war was to be prosecuted.

The president hoped to prevent, or at least deter, the Serbs from using ethnic cleansing to drive the Albanians from Kosovo, and that subsequently Kosovo would become an autonomous region of Serbia. Within the first few days, the world witnessed the failure of the first objective. Whether the second objective is possible over the long run, given the continued leadership of President Milosevic and other convicted war criminals, is subject to severe doubt.

Our objective might have been the end of the Milosevic regime, a democratic Serbia and an interim government for Kosovo and Serbia administered by NATO.

Contingency Plans. In each of the four congressional meetings I attended with the president, I asked: "What if your bombing plan doesn't work even for your limited objectives? What is 'plan B'?" I pushed the point, along with other lawmakers, that he must prepare alternatives.

Milosevic did not back down when the NATO bombs began falling. He declared his objective was the removal of

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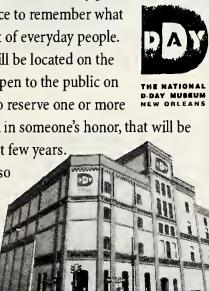
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ture wars are not commensurate with their responsibilities. The Clinton administration and its successor must press Europeans for a more equitable division of labor.

When military operations do occur, the president must be personally involved in securing foreign financial contributions, military commitments, humanitarian aid, homes for refugees, etc. Before the Gulf War, President Bush demonstrated how a president working the phones can bolster the international alliance and secure contributions from a wide array of nations, raising an astounding \$53.5 billion from allies to offset U.S. war expenses.

Many members of Congress have worried that Kosovo is a distraction from more fundamental foreign policy concerns, and that we should be reserving our military strength for other potential conflicts. Undoubtedly, any decision to use military force must take into account the wider context of our global commitments. But the fact is, in Kosovo, we have been engaged in the largest war we have had since 1991. The Clinton administration stumbled into this war without a detailed plan.

Overwhelming Force Needed. One of the primary principles of attack taught in military schools is the use of overwhelming force. NATO's battle plan violated this principle from the outset. President Clinton, with full forethought, gave a speech on the first night of the bombing, explaining that we would not use ground troops. He repeated this pledge again and again. When pressed, he rejected even planning for the use of ground troops. These pledges relieved Milosevic from concern that he might face a NATO ground force that would win the war and threaten the existence of his regime.

Our battle plan was designed to force concessions through punishment, rather than to achieve objectives by using all military means at our disposal. As in Vietnam, we were seeking to find the "threshold of pain" of our enemy.

The Clinton administration's strategy expected that NATO bombing would quickly unnerve the Serbian leadership and force it to agree to NATO's terms. This was an unjustifiable leap of faith. Milosevic moved 40,000 of his best forces to the borders of Kosovo with the intent of ejecting by force the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo. Essentially this left the success of our military operations in the hands of the Serb leadership.

This principle is particularly important because democracies and alliances do not



U.S. Navy air traffic controllers man the radar screens of the Air Operations Center on board the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* during NATO Operation Allied Force.

have an appetite for open-ended war, even one as limited as the air war in the Balkans. We worry about the expense, the potential for casualties and deployments that take our troops away from their loved ones. We also react with aversion to civilian deaths among our enemy's population. These reactions are evidence of the strength of our moral society, and none of us would wish for a more ruthless national conscience. But we must have a clear idea of their implications for how we make war. In most protracted conflicts waged on a limited basis, the terms of negotiations will shift against democracies as the war proceeds.

Force Objectives. The war surrounding Kosovo presented the incredible irony of two wars occurring simultaneously over the same object, but rarely intersecting. NATO's war took place mostly over Serbia where bombs were dropped on petroleum depots, military headquarters, bridges, rail lines and communication centers. Meanwhile, Milosevic's troops were fighting a ground war in Kosovo that in its decisive stages was neither deterred nor slowed by NATO air attacks. In early May, Milosevic welcomed back his victorious generals from Kosovo, who told him the war was won!

It was no accident that a more compliant negotiating stance on the part of Milosevic followed a Kosovo Liberation Army offensive that drew Serb forces into the open and subjected them to heavy losses from allied sorties. In other words, movement came after the two wars finally began to intersect and the force being applied had a direct impact on the main instrument of Milosevic's power.

Minimizing Casualties. NATO's "immaculate intervention" was designed to minimize allied casualties — a concern

any good commander must have. But we must come to a national realization that wars produce casualties, and sometimes casualties are a tragic necessity of taking a stand against national security threats. Our natural aversion to casualties must not lead to future situations where we fail to deploy troops despite the fundamental urgency of doing so for our national security.

If a particular objective is deemed to be sufficiently important to national security to justify military action, then the war almost always should be prosecuted with overwhelming force. In most cases, overwhelming force will minimize casualties more than a gradual, uncertain escalation.

Short Supply. Early in the bombing campaign, news organizations reported the United States was running low on cruise missiles. If such a vital weapon was in short supply, what other unseen deficiencies might crop up? More importantly, our military has been suffering from recruitment and retention difficulties. Because of a 14 percent pay differential with comparable civilian jobs, we are losing good people. No amount of sophisticated equipment will make up for a drain in talented and experienced military manpower.

Improvements are on the way. In May, Congress passed a \$14.5 billion supplemental appropriations bill that included approximately \$11 billion for operations in Kosovo, replacement of equipment and munitions, improvements in defense readiness and a 4.8 percent across-the-board military pay increase.

The war in Kosovo has underscored deficiencies that must be corrected. It's time for us to think about our readiness and the challenges we face as the most powerful nation in the world. □

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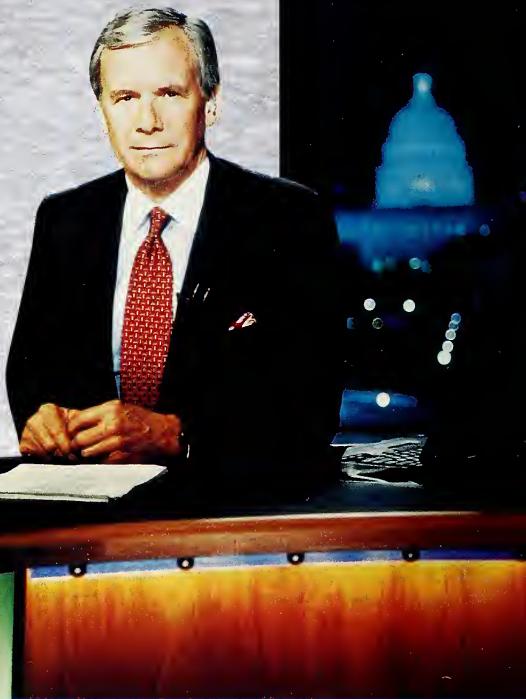
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Chronicling the Greatest Generation



Tom Brokaw at the NBC anchor desk preparing for another "Nightly News" broadcast.

Courtesy NBC

Boys Stater Tom Brokaw credits his Legion experience.

Article Design: Mary Magee

Tom Brokaw has been the sole anchor of NBC Nightly News since 1983. He has won nearly every major award for his work, including two Emmies, a Peabody and The American Legion's top award for distinguished public service in the field of communications.

Long before he became one of the most recognizable people in America, Brokaw was a small-town boy from South Dakota. He was born Feb. 6, 1940 in Webster, S.D., one of three sons of Anthony "Red" and Jean Brokaw. He was raised as part of a working class family where people did things themselves and tried to help others.

Brokaw's first memories are of the Igloo Army Ordinance Depot located in southwestern South Dakota, where his father worked during part of World War II.

He has been married to his wife, Meredith, since 1962, the same year he received a degree in political science from the University of South Dakota. Brokaw started out in Omaha, Neb., and made it to NBC in 1966. He covered the White House from 1973 to 1976, and anchored NBC's "Today Show" from 1976 to 1981. The Brokaws have three daughters — Jennifer, Andrea and Sarah — and two granddaughters.

Brokaw recently talked with *The American Legion Magazine's* Terry Coffey about growing up in South

Dakota, the early influence of The American Legion and his No. 1 bestseller, "The Greatest Generation."

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Thinking back to your early memories in South Dakota, is there one that is typical or symbolizes your experience?

TOM BROKAW: A formative time for me was after the war. My father went to work for the Army Corps of Engineers as a civilian employee. I remember standing with my dad on a hillside looking over the river — I was like 8 or 9 years old — and he said, "They're going to build a dam across there." I thought, "That's impossible." By the time I was 15, one of the largest earth dams in the world (Ft. Randall Dam) had been completed. People came from all over America, sometimes with trailers they were pulling, or sometimes just trying to get housing where they could. The government constructed almost overnight a town (Pickstown) there on the banks of the Missouri, with housing and hospitals and hotels and churches and schools. There was a real vitality about the community.

Q. It sounds like the "Roll up your sleeves and get to work" attitude of that time and generation.

A. All the people I knew growing up were people who did things for themselves. If a window pane got broken, you didn't send out to have somebody fix it. My dad would get another window pane, and I learned how to putty in a window pane. If something needed painting in the house, we did the painting. That went on my entire life. I resisted it as much as I could, but a certain amount of it did stay with me.

Q. How has this affected how you approach your job?

A. If you're not working hard at all times — if you're not doing something to keep yourself intellectually or physically engaged — there's a kind of residue of guilt. I've never, ever been good at just going and stretching out on a beach.

Q. In 1957, you participated in Boys State in South Dakota. What did you learn from that experience?

A. I learned two things. One is the importance of political organization in achieving goals, and working as a team to get to where you want to get to. The other thing that I learned, frankly, was that I could compete at the highest level outside my own community. This was a state-wide gathering; I was elected governor, so it was, for me, a real confidence builder.

Q. Would you like to go into the political arena at all? Might we see Tom Brokaw in office someday?

A. No. I'm at a different stage of life. I've had all the public life that I want. There is the possibility that if the right kind of interesting appointed job came along I would try to do something, because I think you should try to serve when you can, but to go run for office, no.

Q. Why did you decide to write "The Greatest Generation?"

A. I'd been telling these stories in commencement speeches, at dinner tables and other places, and I found that whenever I told them I could bring almost any audience to a dead halt and get their attention. It dawned on me that these

A Life Before the Camera

- Feb. 6, 1940: Born, Webster, S.D.
- 1962: Graduates from University of South Dakota, begins career at KMTV, Omaha.
- 1965: Anchors late-evening news on WSB-TV, Atlanta.
- 1966: Joins NBC News Los Angeles affiliate, KNBC.
- 1973: Becomes NBC White House correspondent.
- 1976: Named anchor of NBC's "Today."
- 1983: Becomes sole anchor of "NBC Nightly News," lands first American one-on-one interview with Mikhail Gorbachev and wins Alfred duPont-Columbia University Award.
- 1989: Wins Peabody Award, and is only anchor reporting from the scene as the Berlin Wall goes down.
- 1992: Wins Emmy for coverage of Midwest flooding.
- 1997: Wins Alfred duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.
- 1998: Wins The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award.

stories are going to disappear if someone doesn't tell them, because these people are in their 70s and 80s. Finally, as a journalist, I believe you should tell the stories of your time.

Q. What do people of this generation — and people of other generations — say to you about the title of the book?

A. The people that are in the book say to me mostly, "Thank you very much. I'm not sure we were the greatest generation, but it's nice to have somebody say that." That's typical of their modesty. Other, younger generations — some are defensive about it. Sometimes they challenge me. My line is, "That's my statement, and I'm sticking to it."

Q. What surprised you most about doing this book?

A. I think what has been most gratifying to me is that it has generated a dialogue across generational lines. People in their 20s and 30s all the way up through the baby-boomers are reading the book and thinking about these stories and about

the values, going back to their parents or their grandparents and asking them more about their own lives and what motivated them.

Q. What's next for you?

A. The next thing for me, I hope, will be having my waders on, fly-rod in hand, my Labrador dogs right behind me, walking up a riverbank somewhere looking for rising trout.

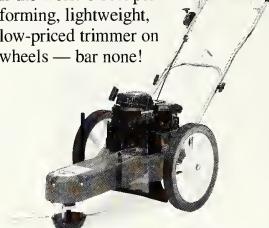


Four-year-old Tom Brokaw at the Igloo Army Ordnance Depot in South Dakota, 1944.

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WASHINGTON WATCH

A Global Military

IF YOU THINK regular military forces are being stretched too thin, consider the National Guard, which has its own "Directorate of International Affairs" and whose state affiliates now have "partnerships" with 27 countries around the world. The goals of the State Partnership Program "reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard, and are to promote regional stability and civil-military relationships in support of U.S. policy objectives."

At the same time, NATO is expanding its role, adding 25 "partner" countries in the Euro-Atlantic Partner-

killing NRA President Charlton Heston. The controversy broke out as Lee was visiting the *USS Wasp* and filming commercials for the Navy. Lee said his comments about shooting Heston with a .44-caliber magnum pistol were "a joke."

Lee's controversial remarks, including a slam at the NRA itself, earned him a spot in the Gun Control Hall of Fame, an on-line monument to the heroes of the anti-gun movement.

Citing Lee's status as a role model for youth, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, urged an apology to Heston and the NRA and called on "liberal elites" in the media and elsewhere to condemn Lee. "Spike Lee obviously has nothing to offer the debate on school violence except more violence and more hate," he said.

Appearing on Steve Malzberg's radio show, Armey asked, "Could you imagine what would have happened if Heston had said to shoot Spike Lee?"

Seeing Red at West Point

CALL IT BAD TIMING. Just a few days after a U.N. tribunal indicted Serb leaders for war crimes, a former member of the communist Khmer Rouge movement came here for a visit. Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, watched his son graduate from West Point.

Former Vietnam POW Mark Smith (who says he was guarded by Hun Sen in the jungles of Cambodia) called the incident "a disgrace to an honorable military academy."

Hun Sen, who defected from the Khmer Rouge in 1978 after it wiped out almost two million Cambodians, has opposed international criminal trials of his former colleagues. Instead, he wants to prosecute U.S. officials for bombing communist forces in Cambodia during the Vietnam war.

His son, Cadet Hun Manet, received his diploma from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis J. Reimer and told reporters he planned to get a master's graduate degree in economics at New York University before returning to Cambodia to serve in the military.

Officials confirmed that his West Point education was paid for by the U.S. government.

— Cliff Kincaid

ship Council to its 19 core members. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., for one, is worried about NATO's new "strategic concept," laid down at the Washington summit in April, which calls for NATO forces to "operate beyond NATO's borders." Roberts says, "The Strategic Concept is completely inconsistent with the spirit of the original [NATO] treaty in critical areas. That means the treaty has been changed and the United States has formally committed to a new strategic direction in Europe — all without the consent of the Senate."

Spike Lee's "Joke"

THE NATIONAL RIFLE Association is still fuming over filmmaker Spike Lee's comments about



Members of the Texas Army National Guard 49th Armored Division prepare for a Bosnia deployment.

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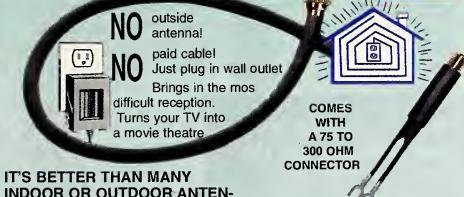
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SHOULD PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS BE BANNED?

Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa.



YES

PARTIAL-BIRTH abortion is a horrific procedure that is medically unnecessary, maternally dangerous, ethically unacceptable and soundly rejected by a majority of citizens and legislators, both pro-choice and pro-life. To maintain even the slightest support for partial-birth abortion, its defenders have relied on lies and distortions.

Partial-birth abortion is a cruel, rogue procedure. In this procedure, a fully formed, often viable infant is pulled from the mother's womb until all but the head has been delivered. A pair of scissors is then jammed into the base of the baby's skull and a tube inserted to suction the brain out, so that the head of the now-dead infant collapses and is delivered.

This procedure is performed thousands of times on healthy babies of healthy mothers – contrary to the claims of its defenders who said partial-birth abortion was performed rarely and almost exclusively in cases of fetal abnormality or threats to maternal life or health. (The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act prohibiting the practice contains an exception

when the mother's life is endangered.) Further, it is a procedure so crude that it is not even recognized in medical textbooks. And, according to an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, no credible study exists that can "evaluate or attest to its

"A pair of scissors is then jammed into the base of the baby's skull and a tube inserted to suction the brain out..."

safety." Indeed, there exists a growing consensus in the medical community that a partial birth abortion is never medically necessary and can even threaten a woman's health or future fertility.

Partial-birth abortion is the deliberate killing of an often viable infant moments from his or her first breath. It is no less than infanticide. Medical experts have told us that infants subjected to this procedure experience acute pain.

Twice, both houses of Congress have voted, by decisive majorities and reflecting their constituencies, to pass the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. Twice, President Clinton has vetoed the legislation, preventing it from becoming law. Congress, again, will vote on this legislation and send it to the president for his signature.

We know the truth about partial-birth abortion. We need a law which speaks to this truth.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas



NO

SINCE the 1973 landmark decision *Roe vs. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that women have the right to make private decisions concerning their own bodies. Despite any arguments to the contrary, the law still maintains that a woman has the ultimate right to choose.

It is a tragic fact that sometimes a mother's health is threatened by the complications of her pregnancy. She is faced with a terrible decision that may affect her future ability to give birth. By taking away the mother's choice to protect herself and her ability to give birth, Congress is infringing on the mother's fundamental rights.

It is physicians, with the benefit of their expertise and experience, who should determine together with the mother, whether this emergency medical procedure is the safest available to her and whether this is the procedure most likely to preserve her health and her future fertility. Physicians should be allowed to determine medically what is in the best interest of the mother, not Congress.

When a woman is faced with this type of painful circumstance, it is too intimate, too personal and too fragile a decision to be a choice made by the government. We should protect the sanctity of the woman's right to privacy by letting this choice remain in her hands. Families and their physicians, not politicians, should make these difficult decisions. It is a decision that should be between a woman, her spiritual leader and her god.

This medical procedure protects not only the life of the mother, but also the ability of a woman to conceive and give birth at a later time.

Women who I have spoken to who have undergone this procedure, chose to do so in agony, but with hope for the future. Knowing The American Legion's commitment to the First Amendment, it should be understood that this is a decision that should be both private and personal.

Your Opinions Count, Too.

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. You may call the Senate at (202) 224-3121; the House at (202) 225-3121.

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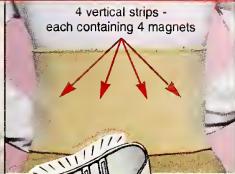
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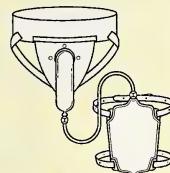
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New Memorial Fetes Medal of Honor Recipients

THE FIRST MEMORIAL dedicated to all recipients of the Medal of Honor was unveiled over Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis. Ninety-seven of the 157 living recipients were the honored guests at the patriotic celebration, which featured a wall of American flags and a daytime fireworks display.

The memorial is the brainchild of Indianapolis Power and Light Company Chairman John Hodowal, who came up with the idea after reading an article about a gathering of Medal of Honor recipients. "The lesson (of the memorial) is that freedom is not free," says Hodowal. "It's been paid for by blood and bone and flesh, and these gentlemen represent our finest American heroes."

The \$2.5 million memorial is a group of 27 curved glass walls, each between seven and 10 feet tall, representing 15 conflicts dating back to the Civil War. Information about the 3,410 recipients is etched into the glass walls. Each day at dusk, a sound system plays stories about medal recipients and their acts.

There is also a video display.

"We wear these medals not for ourselves," Medal of Honor Society President Paul Bucha told the crowd, "but



Medal of Honor Society President Paul Bucha speaks at the unveiling of the new Medal of Honor Memorial in Indianapolis.

for countless men and women who have given of themselves, without recognition. May we be worthy of the tribute you are giving us."

Veterans Urged to Press for Adequate VA Funding

THE NATIONAL COMMANDER of The American Legion has issued an urgent call to veterans and their families to convince lawmakers to provide an adequate budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever they were called, America's veterans kept their commitment to this country," says National Commander Butch Miller. "Now it's time for the country to keep its commitment to veterans."

In October, Miller presented The American Legion's plan for the new VA budget during testimony before a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Commit-

tees. At that time, he urged \$1.9 billion more for VA than the Clinton administration requested. Lawmakers, persuaded by the Legion's case, added \$1.7 billion to the \$43.6 billion originally sought by the administration.

"The final shape of next year's VA budget isn't locked into place," Miller says. "Now is the time for continued, aggressive grassroots lobbying. VA must be funded to meet the growing health care needs of America's veterans."

Miller is asking veterans to approach their elected representatives in Congress and impress upon them the need to preserve a properly funded VA.

Co-sponsors Needed for Tobacco Measures

WASHINGTON—Efforts to restore the right to file for tobacco-related illness compensation to veterans addicted to nicotine during active military service are being slowed by congressional foot-dragging.

"Many members of Congress are balking at revisiting this issue because of the potential budgetary impact to restore the benefit," says Steve Robertson, legislative director for The American Legion.

The bill, H.R. 832, is sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and has 60 co-sponsors. Meanwhile, Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, has one co-sponsor for a similar measure, S. 72.

Robertson says increasing the number of co-sponsors is important. "More co-sponsors improves the opportunity to have the legislation receive a hearing." The American Legion is urging veterans to contact members of Congress and encourage them to co-sponsor H.R. 832 and S. 72.

Meanwhile, the Tobacco Trust Fund Act, H.R. 691, remains in the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health, where it was sent in March. Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., introduced the measure, which calls for a portion of federal tobacco settlements to go to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Twenty-two legislators are co-sponsoring the bill.

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Last surviving Legion founder passes away

MEMBERS OF The American Legion are mourning the passing of the last surviving founder of the nation's largest veterans organization.

George Washington Bentley passed away Friday, June 4, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis. Bentley was 101.

In March, Bentley was awarded the Legion of Honor, the highest medal of the French government, for his U.S. Army service during the "Great War."

"George Bentley has gone on to Post Everlasting, but his legacy is 'Still Serving America,' through nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts," American Legion National Commander Butch Miller said. "I, and the 2.8 million Legionnaires I represent, are proud to carry the torch that Bentley and the rest of our American Legion founders ignited in 1919 to preserve American values and to ensure that our nation honors its patriots."



The American Legion Library

"George Washington Bentley and President George Washington shared a significant distinction: Both were, in a sense, founding fathers."

Bentley was assigned to the Army Engineers Purchasing Office in France from June 1918 to October 1919. He saw an ad in *Stars and Stripes* about a meeting to discuss the formation of an organization of wartime veterans. Bentley, who said he was "curious" about the organizers' intentions, attended the Paris meeting in March 1919 where The American Legion was born.

A native of Montgomery, Minn., Bentley was a life member of Calhoun American Legion Post 231 in Minneapolis. He is survived by a grandson, Frank, of Andover, Minn.; a granddaughter, Nancy, of Aitkin, Minn.; and three great-grandchildren.

Above: Legion founder George Washington Bentley at the 76th American Legion National Convention, in Minneapolis, in 1994. **Left:** Pallbearers at George Bentley's funeral included American Legion Past National Commanders Daniel F. Foley, left, and Daniel A. Ludwig, second from left; and National Commander Butch Miller, right.



Legion Asks House To Consider Improved Veterans' Benefits

THE AMERICAN LEGION is backing six legislative proposals in the U.S. House of Representatives that will improve veterans' benefits and the operations of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Philip R. Wilkerson, deputy director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission for The American Legion, outlined the intent of each:

HR 605: Proposes staggered early retirement over the next five years for

judges of the United States Court of Veterans Appeals.

HR 690: The National Research Council noted an increased incidence of lung cancer among individuals exposed to ionizing radiation. VA never added it to the list of presumptive diseases specific to radiation-exposed veterans.

HR 708: Ensures that all eligible surviving spouses who previously received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation will receive the benefits and services which Congress intended.

HR 784: Authorizes payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to the surviving spouse of a former POW who at the time of death was rated totally disabled and had one of the listed POW diseases.

HR 1765: Proposes a cost-of-living adjustment in the monthly rates of service-disabled veterans.

HR 214: Would formally require the establishment of a quality assurance program within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

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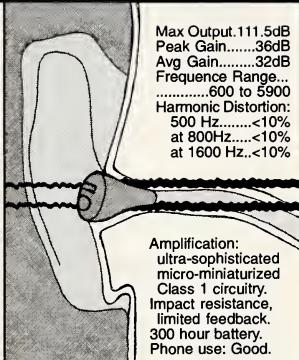
This month these guys are in the hearing aid business. Their hearing aids are made in some Asian country perhaps by underpaid, overworked unskilled people using inferior, poorly made possibly even used components. They have no quality control, no FDA registration and as I said before... *You Get What You Pay For.*

If you want a cheap, inferior quality sound amplifier, buy their product. Don't expect it to work forever and don't expect to have it repaired anywhere in the United States. There isn't a single licensed hearing aid dispenser that will repair it.

BUT, IF YOU HAVE MILD TO MODERATE HEARING LOSS and you want to hear the television better... you want to have conversations on the telephone... you want to understand what you're hearing in a crowded room - then buy a MaxiSound In-the-Ear Hearing Aid. It can be serviced, repaired or replaced if need be. We also offer an optional extended warranty and discounted batteries. The MaxiSound Hearing Aid is a quality product and has been sold since 1993.

If you have a severe hearing loss, please see an Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor so that your hearing loss can be correctly evaluated and treated. Help is available for all levels of hearing loss.

Help is available, but it costs more to use quality components when making a quality hearing amplifier like the MaxiSound unit. The other guys are able to sell their inferior "knock-off, look-a-like" hearing amplifier for less because it costs less. Next month these guys may be sell-



Max Output.111.5dB
Peak Gain.....36dB
Avg Gain.....32dB
Frequency Range...
.....600 to 5900
Harmonic Distortion:
500 Hz.....<10%
at 800Hz.....<10%
at 1600 Hz.....<10%

Amplification:
ultra-sophisticated
micro-minaturized
Class 1 circuitry.
Impact resistance,
limited feedback.
300 hour battery.
Phone use: Good.

ing trees, cars, videos, clocks or bridges.

When it comes to your own personal hearing, it pays to spend a little more and purchase a quality product. A product that is guaranteed plus it comes with an optional extended warranty. Currently, more than 100,000 MaxiSounds have been sold to satisfied customers who speak at normal levels and understand everything they hear in group conversations. Our satisfied customers no longer ask people to repeat what they just said.

MaxiSound features on/off and volume control. Comfortable, replaceable soft rubber tips, 300 hour battery, instructions. Maintenance kit: 4 replacement tips, 4 (#312) batteries, detailed instructions. Battery offer: 12 Model #312 batteries. Guarantee: full refund of purchase price (less P&H) within 60 days of purchase. Individual experiences may vary depending on severity of hearing loss.

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Questions and Comments: 203-226-0170

I have been advised that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that my best interests would be served if I had a medical evaluation by a licensed physician, preferably a physician who specializes in diseases of the ear, before purchasing a hearing aid. After consulting with my physician and utilizing established procedures and instrumentation in the fitting of any amplification device, I am 18 years old or older and voluntarily sign this waiver which indicates that I do not wish either a medical evaluation or test before purchasing my MaxiSound.

Waiver Signature X _____

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The Veterans' Connection

VETS® is a private veterans program that provides The American Legion with information about reunions, helps veterans locate old buddies and offers other special benefits and services to veterans and their families.

REUNION INFORMATION

This month we have listed many groups that are planning reunions. Information is provided free to Legion members and other veterans who write VETS and enclose the 5-digit VETS number of each reunion. VETS maintains reunion and contact information for more than 12,000 outfits. Reunion information is also available at no charge on the Internet at www.vets.org. Many libraries and schools will provide Internet access free for veterans with no Internet access or computer skills. We regret that due to call volume we cannot accept phone requests for reunion information. See "How to Use VETS Services" below.

OUTFIT ENROLLMENT IS FREE

Coordinators may list reunion information with VETS at no charge. Information may be submitted electronically via the VETS website or on official forms by writing VETS®. Individuals planning new reunions or offering themselves as points of contact for possible new reunions may also register at no charge.

THE NATIONAL VETS® ARCHIVES

The National VETS Archives is a free historical registry for veterans who want to be listed on the VETS roster for each outfit in which they served. Registration is free but to ensure accuracy, must be on official archive forms. Registration may be done electronically at the VETS Internet home page. VETS uses the archives to develop historical rosters and reunion contact information. Deceased veterans may be enrolled posthumously by a family member.

FINDERS/SEEKERS®

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5th AF, 80th Serv Grp, 66th Serv Sq (WWII) #15098 8th AF, 390th Bomb Grp (H) Asso (Station 153, Framlington, England) #10469
9th AF, 363rd Tac Recon Grp, 161st Tac Recon Sq (ETO, WWII) #21622 20th AF, 315th Bomb Wing Asso (NW Field, Guam) #16926 43rd Bomb Grp (H) Asso (WWII) #11003 60th Air Serv Sq #14591

358th Flr Grp "Orangetails" & 462nd Serv Sq (All Sq/Sqn Units, WWII) #10635 388th Bomb Grp (H) Asso #10378 361st Ftr Grp, 374th/375th/376th Sqs (WWII) #16902 373rd Ftr Grp, 412th Ftr Sq (WWII) #19464 441st TC Grp (AS) #16967 451st Bomb Grp #16869 457th Bomb Grp (H) Asso (WWII) #20024 ATC: North African Div (43-46) #13862

AIR FORCE

8th AF, 487th Bomb Grp (H) (WWII) #10463 13th / 71st FIS (Selfridge AFB, MI (53-57) #11405 48th Ftr Sq Asso (FS, FIS, FTS) #22821 91st Strat Recon Wing #20423 452nd Bomb Wing (Korea, 50-52) #15126 684th / 3565th AF Band (1955-1957) #23678 1503rd ATW - MATS (Haneda AB, Tokyo Japan, 48-56) #20394

1906th/1881st Comm Sq (Hill AFB, UT) #22768 7505th USAF Hospital #21612 AFHQ Cmd Flight Line Crews (Bolling & Andrews AFB) #23550 Air Weather Recon Asso #12385 All Basic Training Units (Miami Beach, FL /WWII) #24296 8-36 SAC Crew LS35 (Loring AFB, ME /52-56) #94293

ARMY

1st FA OBS BN #16238 3rd Ord MM Co (WWII) #15235 10th Combat Eng (50-51) #24286 10th Mountain Division Asso #20530 17th AAA Grp, Hq Btry #21789 29th AAA (SP) Japan #23373 37th Inf Div Vets Asso #15753 55th Gen Hospital #15439 82nd A/B Div, 3rd Bde (VN, 68-69) #19381 82nd A/B Div, 313th Mili-

tary Intel Bn A/B #24303 92nd Sig Bn (WWII) #10333 94th Sig Bn Asso #10689 106th Inf Div "Golden Lions Asso" (WWII) #15335

116th AAA Gun Bn, A-D Btrys #12213 191st Assault Helicopter Co (D-67) #21924 203rd Artillery Anti-Aircraft, C B (North Africa, El Gittare Valley) #32507 898th AW / 334th & 35th #15589 238th Eng (C) Br Asso #15291 398th AAA AW Br (Korea) #20118 517th FA Bn (WWII) #28269 602nd TD Br Asso, Inc. #13723 630th AAA Br (WWII) #16457 695th & 696th AFA Bns (WWII/Korea, Berlin) #37444 735th MP Br Asso #16676 778th Tank Bn (WWII) #11109 87th/47th Ar Bn Eng Avn Br #21117 97th / 975th FA Bns (WWII) #16314 3461st Ord Mat CO (45-46) #19246

COAST GUARD

USS Belfast PF-35 (WWII) #10495

MARINES

1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 3rd Bn, How Co (Korea) #20066 1st Mar Div, 7th Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co #24290 2nd Mar Div, 2nd Motor Transport Bn (WWII) #23819 4th Mar Div, 23rd Rgt, F Co #10300 7th Serv Rgt, Motor Trans Co (WWII) #10163 10th Defense AAA Br (South Pacific, 42-45) #32504 Aircraft Fire Fighting & Rescue Asso (All ranks, active, retired, former) #23648 MCRD San Diego: Pltn 1187 (Fall of 1969) #24268

MTACS-2, MAGCIS-2, MASS-2, MACS-2, MADC-2, MAGC-2, MAWG-2 & MASRT-1 #18785 VMB-612, PBJ Sq, "Cram's Rams" (WWII) #17104 VMF/VMF AW/VMFA-115 Asso (43-95) #14732 VMF(N) / VMFA(W) / VMFA-531 (All Years) #22588

MISCELLANEOUS

Augusta Military Academy (Ft Defiance, VA) #21401 Burtonwood Asso (All) #21734

NAVY

17th/53rd/120th NCB (WWII) #18181 28th NCB

touch with their outfit and buddies. Ann Landers and Dear Abby have shared our success with millions of their readers and now due to technology and demand, Finders/Seekers has moved to the Internet. A searchable list of our active files is available on the VETS home page. We encourage all veterans to check this registry to see if someone is trying to find them. Individuals who order Finders/Seekers will have their requests listed and also receive our free tips on how to locate missing veterans. Cost is a non-refundable \$15. Please do not send cash. We accept checks, money orders and MasterCard, Visa and Discover cards.

VETS® BENEFITS

Veterans who enroll in the National VETS Archives are eligible for a variety of products and services offered by VETS. Veterans who qualify automatically receive notices about their outfit reunions, free or discounted Finders/Seekers services and other VETS consumer benefits. In most cases, VETS benefits can be extended to other family members and the survivors of deceased veterans. Details are available on the VETS website or by writing VETS.

HOW TO USE VETS® SERVICES

To promote better accuracy and faster response, and except for reunion information requests, official VETS forms should be used to submit information or request other services. Forms are available free on the VETS website at www.vets.org or they may be obtained by writing VETS at P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901 and enclosing a self-addressed, stamped #10 (long) reply envelope. VETS normally responds to all written requests the next business day. To keep costs low and still handle thousands of requests each week, VETS does not accept phone calls for reunion information. In an emergency, messages about other services may be left on the VETS voice mail system 24 hours a day at (573) 474-4444. You can also reach VETS via e-mail at admin@vets.org.

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USS Balch DD-363/USS Portfield DD-682 #10703 USS Benning DD-662 #10089 USS Cabot CL-28 (Incl Air Sqrs 1943-1957) #11081 USS Chamberlain DE-10 (All who served, incl. USS Chepachet AO-78 #17703 USS Chilton APA/LPA-38 (Incl Mar Army, 1942-1974) #22840 USS Dempsey DE-26 #20338 USS Edwards DD-619 #18472 USS Endymion AR-9 #10956 USS Fessenden DE/DER-142 #10988 USS Francis M Robinson DE-220 #24304

USS Furse DD/DDR-882 (All Years) #14562 USS Halsey Powell #13027 USS Hickox DD-673 (DESRON-52) #12265 USS Hovey DMS-11/DD-208 #12649 USS Kasaan Bay #11519 USS Lake DE-301 #12152 USS Lewis Hancock DD-676 (DESRON-52) #12266 USS Lowndes APA-154 #17452 USS Makassar Strait CVE-91/VC-97 #23094 USS Miller DD-535 (DESRON-52) #12468 USS Mission Bay CVE-59 #18408

USS Montague AKA-98 (WWII) #19668 USS Newman DE-205/APD-59 #13777 USS Owen DD-536 (DESRON-52) #12261 USS Pomfret SS-391 #24194 USS Richard P Leary DD-664 #28287 USS Samuel B Roberts DD-832 #10873 USS Serrano AGS-24 #19063 USS Shelton DD-790 #10477 USS Sperry AS-12 (42-82) #11866 USS St Lo CVE-63/VC-65 #17315 USS Tangier AV-8 #18245 USS Tingey DD-539 #12264

USS Vesole DD/DR-878 (WWII, 45-76) #10041 USS William P Biddle APA-8 (WWII) #18097 USS William Sevier DE-441 #18859 USS Woodford AKA-86 (WWII) #17694 VP-73 (Korea, 50-52) #10591 VPB-208 (WWII) #21323

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COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Marines, USS Gen. Hershey, William G. Buster is searching for six corporals and PFCs who can verify a neck and back injury suffered in Oct., 1944. #1416.
 34th S&S Bn., U.S. Army, Danang. Larry Richard Wagner is searching for witnesses who can remember Danang ammo dump blowing up when the POW camp was overrun, and numerous rocket attacks from March 1969 to March 1970. #1417.

IN SEARCH OF

Anyone who served in the 969th Construction Engineer Group near Salzburg, Austria, or 64th Engineer Topographic Co. in Austria during the Korean War. Contact John G. Davis, Esq., 6 Rings End Rd., Apt. 2, Darien, CT 06820-5822.
 Anyone who served in M Company, 35th Regiment, during 1951. Contact Naomi C. (Erickson) Reitterer, 837 Pennsylvania, Story City, IA 50248.
 Anyone who served during 1952-1953 in Korea with the 25th Division, 35th Regiment, Easy Company. Contact Ken Gourley, P.O. Box 225, E. Sandwich, MA 02537.
 Shipmates on the U.S.S. Tulare AKA 112 who worked around the boilers when an accident that caused burns and a back injury occurred. Contact Frederick A. Riecker, 6170 Ponderosa Way, CA 95954; (530)873-0852.

Anyone who served with the 101st Airborne Division in Hue, Vietnam, during February, 1968. Contact Judy Harvey, RR I Box 259, Clarksville, AR 72830-9720.
 Anyone who served in Company B, 321st Regiment, 81st Wildcat Division. Contact Thomas Climie, 3024 S. Ash St., Denver, CO 80222.

World War II veterans to record on paper their comments and narratives short or long, paragraphs or pages for a book that will be available in stores, by catalog, schools and libraries. Profits will be donated to The National World War II Memorial. Contact Glendale Industries, 192 Paris Ave., Northvale, NJ, 07647-

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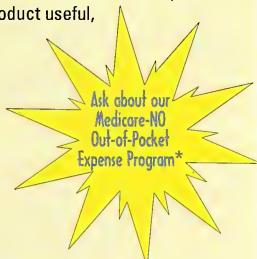
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Anyone aboard the USS Macon, which crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice and cruised to South America between 1955 and 1957. Contact Fran Troutman, 9477 Pope Road, Forestville, NY 14062-9523.

Anyone who served in the U.S. Army armored division stationed in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in 1945. Contact Arnold Roeten-Sturm, Ree 19, 1273 GP Huizen, Nederland, 0031-35-5258714.

Information about Company C, 53rd Ammunition Train, Coast Artillery Corps, American Expeditionary Force in France, May, 1918 through January, 1919. This is for a family history. Contact James A. Ryan, 802 Wakefield, #9, Houston, TX 77018-6332.

Anyone who served with H9 Company, 1st/67th Armor, 2nd Armor Division, Ft. Hood, Texas, from May, 1966 to May, 1967. Contact Albert Jones Jr., 111 Peachwood, Ripley, MS 38663.

Anyone - but especially medical personnel - who served on Okinawa during the Korean conflict, 1951 to 1953. Contact Marty Halayek Fogle, 4131 Mt. Hukee, San Diego, Calif. 92117; (619) 292-0936. Anyone who served in the Peninsula Base Section Mtousa Leghorn, Italy # 23503, from 1944 to 1947. Contact Gerald Detwiler, 3265 Country Club Rd., Connellsville, PA 15425-9735.

Anyone who served with Company B, 229th Engineering Combat Battalion, on Dec. 21, during the Battle of the Bulge. Contact Mrs. Rita Cobb, 1315 Ellison Ave., Louisville, KY 40204; (502) 637-3263.

Any World War II veterans who served with Saratoga Springs, N.Y., veterans who died in the war. A memorial is being restored that honors 18 Saratoga veterans who died. Contact Eugene J. Corsale, R.D. No. 3, Outlook Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY.

TAPS

James Vernon Leach, Ore., Dept. Boy Scout Chmn. (1964-65, 75-78), Dept. Sgt-at-Arms (1982-83), Dept. Trophies & Awards Chmn. (1981-87), Nat'l Amer. Cncl. (1964-65, 73-74), Nat'l Sec. Cncl. (1966-67), Nat'l Lw. & Ord. (1970-72), Nat'l M&PA (1971-72), Nat'l Dist. Guests (1972-73).

William F. Gormley, Pa., Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1966-67, 69-70), Dept. Outdr. Publ. Chmn. (1966-67), Nat'l Civil Def. (1966-67), Nat'l M&PA Chmn. (1967-76), Nat'l M&PA (1976-80), Dept. Vet. Affairs and Rehab. (1977-78), Nat'l Leg. Cncl. (1976-82), Nat'l Vets. Pref. (1977-78), Alt. Nat'l Exec. (1978-80).

Helmut Spangenthal, France, Dept. Vice Cmdr. (1971-72), Dept. Cmdr. (1972-74), Nat'l Exec. (1974-82), Dept. Spirit of 76 Chmn. (1974-76), Nat'l For. Rel. Comm. (1974-77), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1975-76), Nat'l Int. Afrs. Comm. (1977-82), Dept. Vet. Pref. Chmn. (1980-81, 89-90), Dept. For. Rel. Chmn. (1980-81, 87-89, 90-91), Dept. Rehab. Chmn. (1980-82, 89-90), Dept. Econ. Chmn. (1981).

V.J. DuPuis, Sr., La., Nat'l M&PA (1967-70, 80-82), Nat'l Sec. Chmn. (1969-76), Nat'l Vet. Pref. (1978-79), Nat'l Merch. Mar. (1987), Dept. For. Rel. Chmn. (1989-90, 94-96), Dept. Sec. Chmn. (1988), Dept. Law & Ord. Chmn. (1989), Dept. For. Rel. (1992-93).

Alfred F. Harwood, Mass., Nat'l Vet. Pref. (1952-54), Dept. Sfty. Chmn. (1954-55), Nat'l Merch. Mar. V. Chmn. (1955-59), Nat'l Int. Afrs. (1959-60, 1980-81), Nat'l Sec. Cncl. V. Chmn. (1963-67), Nat'l Merch. Mar. (1967-68), Dept. Merch. Mar. Chmn. (1968-69), Dept. Fin. Chmn. (1971-74, 75-76, 77-78), Nat'l Amer. Cncl. V. Chmn. (1974-75), Nat'l Embroid. (1975-78), Nat'l Const. & B-Laws (1978), Nat'l Rehab. Adv. Bd. (1980-81), Nat'l Legis. Cncl. (6th Congr. Dist.) (1985-90), Dept. Const. & By-Laws Chmn. (1983-97).

Robert P. Walsh, Texas, Nat'l Comm. (1956-61, 63-64, 66-70), Nat'l Vet. Pref. (1961-67, 72-90), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1962-63, 67-68), Dept. V. Cmd. (1963-64), Dept. Mil. Afrs. Chmn. (1964-65), Nat'l Dis. Guests Comm. V. Chmn. (1964-65), Nat'l Sec. Cncl. (1964-66), Dept. Legis. Chmn. (1966-67), Dept. Cmd. (1968-69), Nat'l Trophies, Awd. & Cere. Comm. (1969-72), Nat'l Exec. Comm. Alt. (1972-76), Dept. Conv. Chmn. (1972-73), Nat'l Exec. Comm. (1976-80), Nat'l Econ. Comm. (1976-80), Dept. Law & Ord. Chmn. (1983-84), Dept. Ed. & Schol. Chmn. (1987-90), Nat'l Legis. Cncl. (1987-90, 93-94), Nat'l Vet. Pref. Comm. V. Chmn. (1988-93).

Romaine Roethel, Nev., Dept. Adj. (1993-98), Nat'l Aux. Pres. (1981).

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Choice Hotels Int'l	1-800-4-CHOICE	Member Card
LaQuinta Inn	1-800-531-5900	Corporate Rate
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Middle Ages

I recently turned 50, which is young for a tree, mid-life for an elephant, and ancient for a quarter-miler whose son now says, "Dad, I just can't run with you anymore unless I bring something to read."

—Bill Cosby

Middle age is when your age starts to show around the middle.

—Bob Hope

Taxing System

The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has.

—Will Rogers

Gracie Allen worked out a system where we wouldn't have to pay any tax. If you owe the government five thousand dollars, you make out your return for ten thousand. The government owes you five, and you owe them five, so you're even.

—George Burns

All in the Family

Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.

—Erma Bombeck

Genetics: the study of which parent's family is responsible for a teenager's behavior.

—Anonymous

A family man is a man who has replaced the money in his wallet with pictures of his wife and kids.

—Anonymous

Any Hot Job Leads?

I wonder about unemployed blacksmiths. Do they stand around talking about possible jobs, saying, "Yeah, I got a few irons in the fire?"

—Jerry Seinfeld, *Sein Language*



"Give this knob a couple turns and when Mom gets on it you can hear her clear over to the playground."

Adults Say the Funniest Things

Some winners from a *New York Magazine* contest for modern malaprops:

He's a wolf in cheap clothing.

It was a case of love at Versailles.

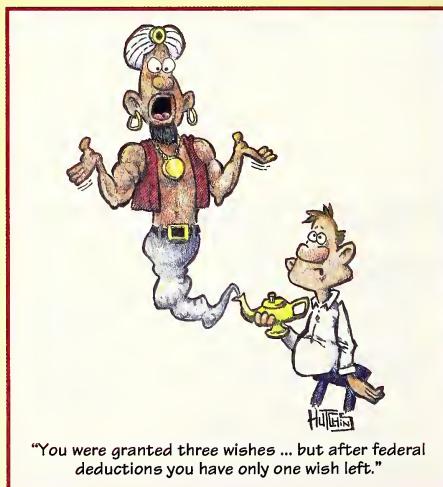
A fool and his money are some party.

Michelangelo painted the Sixteenth Chapel.

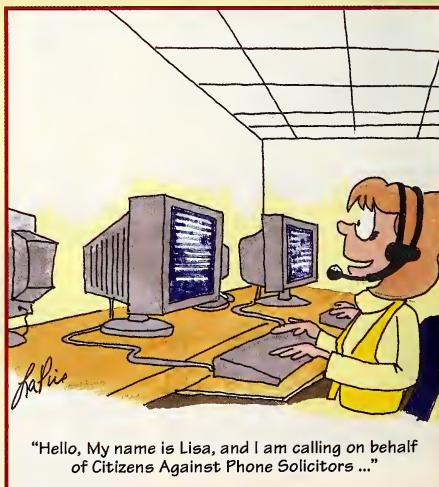
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All I want from you kids is a little piece of quiet.

—New York Magazine



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